Nippon Times

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KONEV'S ARMY PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE IN SILESIA SECTORS

Soviet Spearhead at Forst, Northwest of Sagan, Cut Off By German Tank Attack

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—Marshal Konev's armies in the battlefields of lower Silesia were placed on the defensive all day yesterday by lively German tank attacks in the entire sector and according to the German military spokesman, the Soviet spearhead which had penetrated as far as Forst, northwest of Sagan, was cut off and pushed back. Both Sommerfeld and Sorau remained in German hands, while fierce street-fighting continued in Sagan.

Hard pressed Soviet units in this area nowhere made any sizeable gains in the westerly direction nor were they able to detach themselves out of the encirclement ring around Breslau. German counterattacks all along the front of this battle area were successful in checking or pushing back the Soviet wedges.

The Soviet forces north of Sorau were further pushed back and Sommerfeld and Naumberg were recaptured. After fierce fighting yesterday, the Soviets were driven out of Sommerfeld and a consequent Soviet attempt to regain the town was smashed. The Germans continued to attack southward from Sommerfeld. The isolated Soviet spearhead in the Forst area turned around and battled eastward to reopen their communication line but failed.

Along the entire Queis, the Soviets attempted to cross the river and succeeded at one point but they were thrown back again by a German counterattack.

Meanwhile, in the central Oder sector between Furstenberg and Kuestrin, Marshal Zhukov withdrew his forces, stopped at the German Oder defenses and threw them into the southern Pomeranian battle, into the area of Stargard to support his units there being hard-pressed by increased German resistance. For the time being, thus, Soviet offensive thrusts westwards toward Berlin is not expected.

In southern Pomerania, the Germans carried out suprise attacks which reestablished communications between Bahn and Arnswalde which was temporarily lost.

At the other big focal point of the fighting in west and east Prussia two Soviet army groups continued their struggle to overcome stubborn German resistance. Rokossovski's strong bid to drive a wedge from Konitz west of Vistula toward Danzig was frustrated yesterday by growing German defense measures. A simultaneous thrust toward Marienburg and the Nogat sector west of Elbing was likewise checked and the Soviets were unable to cross the branch of the Vistula. Farther east heavy fighting continues for Koenigsberg, but no change in the situation was effected.

Down in Budapest, meanwhile, further German-Hungarian groups which broke through the Soviet ring around the capital fought their way through to the German lines west of the city.

Battle Rages for Breslau

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—Latest frontline reports said the Soviets have commenced the battle for Breslau with numerous local thrusts from the west and east and with concentrated forces they appear to be staging the decisive battle for the Oder fortress.

Heavy artillery barrage is pounding from all sides on the German defenses, but thus far the German defenses have withstood all onslaughts. Only west of the city, the Soviets after heavy artillery preparation succeeded in penetrating into the village of Klettendorf.

Sweden Breaks Economic Ties

Domei

STOCKHOLM, February 17.—Sweden has broken off economic relations with Germany. It is authoritatively learned that the Swedish Government will not renew the Swedish-German trade agreement which expired on January 1 and that all export trade to Germany in fact has been at a standstill since January 1. By the trade agreement signed a year ago Swedish exports to Germany were stipulated to be: 7,000,000 tons of iron ore, 33,000 tons of paper, and 200,000 tons of pulp. Intra exports in agreement were also ball-bearings which caused such a diplomatic [illegible] last year.

His Majesty Prays For Weal of Nation At Kinensai Rituals

On the occasion, Saturday, of Kinensai, His Majesty the Emperor was pleased to perform solemn rites before the sanctuaries within the Imperial Palace and to pray for abundant harvest and the welfare of the people for the current year with high-ranking officials of the Imperial Household Department in attendance. An Imperial Messenger in the person of Count Kinfuji Muromachi, Court Ritualist, was dispatched to the Grand Shrines of Ise the same day to present Imperial offerings.

CHUNGKING, YENAN FORCES CLASH IN HEAVY FIGHTING

Sporadic Engagements in Kwangtung Province Develop Into Full-Scale Conflict

Domei

CANTON, February 17.—Sporadic clashes which have been going on between Chungking and Yenan troops since the latter part of last December, in the neighborhoods of Hokshan and Hoipang, on the south bank of the West River in Kwangtung Province, finally developed into a full-scale armed conflict about the middle of January, according to reliable reports received here.

They add that both sides have suffered heavy casualties and the fighting is still going on.

The Yenan forces apparently seized the opportunity presented by the weakening of Chungking's fighting power in these sectors due to the crushing drives of our South China Expeditionary Forces. The Yenan regime has long been anxious to expand its influence in these areas.

With the object of wiping out the remnant Chungking troops, approximately a division of Yenan troops, commanded by Ou Shih engaged the Chungking Third Advance Company column in which the Chungking forces sustained the loss of a divisional commander killed and hundreds of others killed or wounded. About 30 Yenan soldiers also died in the fray.

Chungking Proposals Rapped

Domei

LISBON, February 15.—Chou En-lai, delegate of the Yenan regime, returned to Yenan today after fruitless negotiations which ended with his rejection of the Chungking Government proposals for resettlement, according to a Chungking dispatch.

Chou took back with him fresh Chungking proposals, but it is indicated that these will also be rejected. Chou said that the Chungking Government's statement on the negotiations was unfair because it did not include the conditions under which the so-called concessions would be granted—for example the Government would only give the Communists legal status as a party if they placed the Communist armies under the Kuomintang. The Government insisted on the maintenance of a one-party rule. The Communists would not accept representation on the consultative body which would in effect be an instrument of the Kuomintang. The Communists wanted an immediate convocation of an all-party conference to discuss how to terminate the present one-party dictatorship' and establish a democratic coalition Government and a unified high command.

BRITISH POWER DECLINING

Wilhemstrasse Comments on Churchill's Speech in Greece

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—Concerning Prime Minister, Winston Churchill's stay in Greece and his speech in Athens, the Wilhelmstrasse declared today that Churchill evidently wanted to emphasize the importance of the position which Britain held in Greece. "That the British power is restricted in the Mediterranean principally to Greece is an indication of the decline of the British political influence in general," it said.

"It could not be overlooked that Greece is also finding itself in a permanent crisis," it added. "The latent tension in Greece might break out again and the Greek position is endangered by the regency which "Tito", on behalf of Stalin has taken over in the Balkans and which is manifested in all utterances with regard to strong federal Jugoslavia, the establishment of the Macedonian state and the far-reaching plans of affiliation with Bulgaria."

HEAVY BATTLE RAGES IN LOWER RHINE AREA

British Troops Suffer High Losses in Northern Sector Of Western Front

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—The battle raging between the Meuse and the lower Rhine continued with unabated ferocity yesterday with the British, Canadian and Scotch troops still trying hard to overcome German resistance in that area. Enemy progress continued to be extremely slow while their losses have been disproportionately heavy.

In the greatly contested area, the enemy forces were again denied a breakthrough despite their big material display. Southwest of Emmerich, where the Canadians have advanced into the German positions, fresh fighting flared up with the Canadians making but slight gains, before they were stopped. Also southeast of Kleve and along the Kleve-Calcar highway all British and Canadian thrusts were beaten off. Further attacks made by Scotch troops on a broad front in the Gennep Heath area south of Reichswald were likewise repulsed. German paratroops in that region straightened out local penetrations.

The Roer front remained unchanged while in the Eifel and Sauer sector slackening of enemy pressure was observed although it is believed this might be only a temporary pause and that Lieutenant-General Omar Bradley is possibly carrying out major regroupings of his forces.

Southeast of Vianden, the Germans cleared up local American penetrations and an American attempt to expand their bridgehead on the Sauer northwest of Echternach was broken by German artillery fire.

In the old battlefields between Saargemuend and the lower Vosges, meanwhile, units of the American 7th army yesterday carried out a surprise thrust on an eight-kilometer front after intense artillery preparation. The Germans on the spot immediately intercepted the attacks and stopped the enemy after a gain of few hundred meters and before they reached the Blies sector.

The new offensive is taken to be a possible prelude to a new major attack by the 7th army in view of recent movements and the addition of strong forces brought up from upper Alsace. The resumption of the offensive against southern Palatinate which had been held up in December and reversed in January is believed to be due.

No fighting of importance was reported from the Alsace sectors.

ONLY COMPROMISES MADE

Italian and Spanish Papers Comment on Crimea Conference

Domei

MADRID, February 16.—"The Crimea Agreement consists of nothing but compromises," declared the editor of the Italian paper Il Popole in his editorial on the Stalin-Roosevelt-Churchill Tripartite Conference.

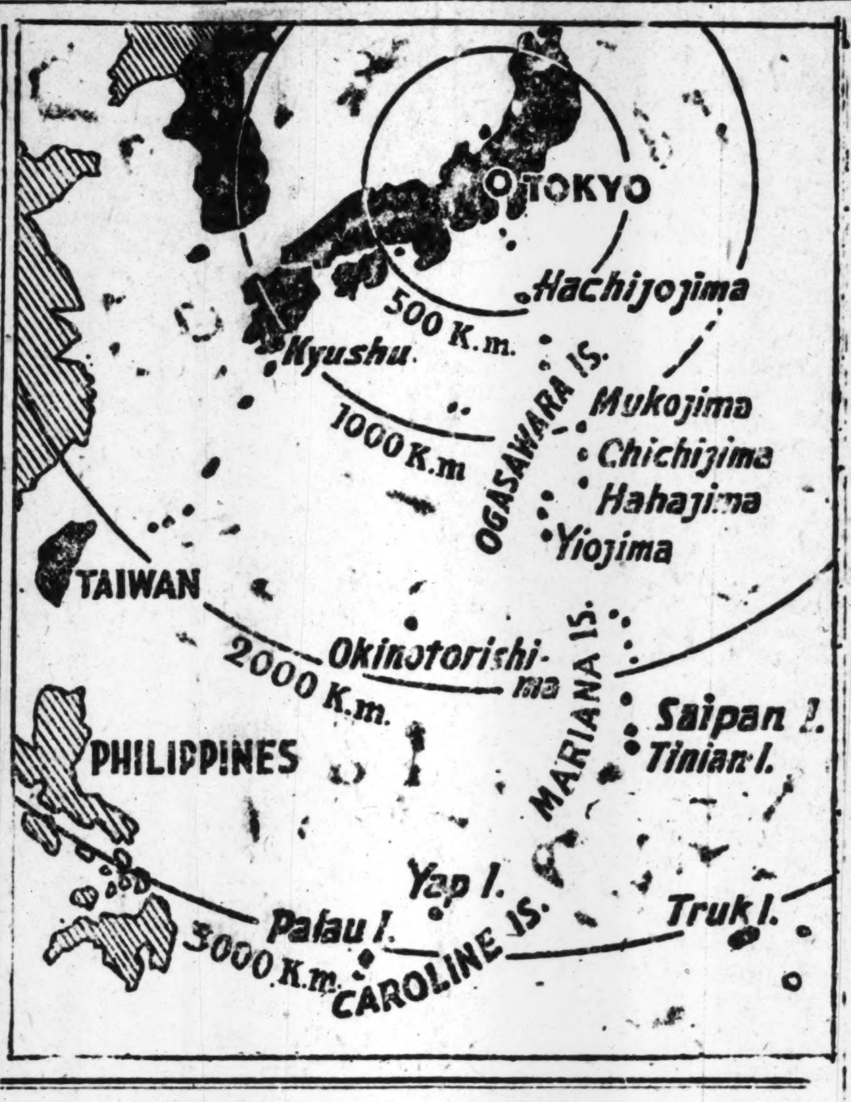
The correspondent of this city's paper Ya, Gonzales Alonso, cables from Rome that in the agreement the word compromise is repeated in every sentence. There were compromises regarding distribution of occupied territory and territory yet to be occupied; compromise about Poland, about Yugoslavia, Yugoslav King Peter II and Marshal Joseph 'Tito' Brozovitch; Commander in Chief of the Yugoslav Partisan Army, and compromises regarding the employment of the Atlantic Charter and the four freedoms of President Roosevelt.

The article in the Il Popole expresses disappointment of the Italian people regarding the Crimea Conference. "Italy had set hope on the acknowledgement of the country by the Allies but has put aside all hopes now," he said.

ENEMY NEAR MYINMU HIT

Domei

JAPANESE BASE IN BURMA, February 16.—Swinging through the heavy barrage of enemy ground fire, a formation of Japanese planes based in Burma attacked enemy rivercraft and armored cars assembled in the vicinity of Myinum, west of Sagaing on the west bank of the Irrawaddy River, early this morning. War results obtained by the Japanese raiders included 16 armored cars and 17 motorboats. All of the Japanese planes returned to their base safely.



U.S. Cruiser Sunk by Nippon Navy Plane In Self-Blasting Attack Off Yiojima Isle

By K. KONDO
Of the Military Press Corps

A CERTAIN CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, February 17.—An enemy fleet comprised of a small carrier, five battleships, six cruisers, and considerable number of destroyers, landing barges, large transports and submarines made its appearance within sight of Yiojima at 1 p.m. yesterday. The enemy carried out fleet bombardment against Japanese positions and A-A batteries which were quickly countered by Japanese guns.

A Japanese Navy plane carried out a dive bombing on one of the enemy cruisers in a self-blasting assault. A big fire was seen rising from the ship and the next moment, the cruiser sank out of sight. Sometime after 2:30 p.m. when intense shelling was being exchanged, indications became more distinct that the enemy will most probably attempt a landing. At 3:15 p.m., enemy ships made a sudden appearance at a distance of about 1,500 meters off the southern coast of the island and started laying buoys and clearing the waters. However, they disappeared shortly afterward. It seemed that the enemy was planning to effect landing at night under cover of darkness.

26 Hachijo Raiders Blasted

Domei

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, February 17.—Enemy ship-based planes attacking the area of the Hachijo Islands since the morning of February 16 have reached a total of 200.

The Japanese Air Unit on the spot met the enemy planes and put up a gallant struggle and up to the present have shot down and damaged 26 of the raiders.

Task Force Off Kanto

By Courtesy of the Press Section

Continuing their persistent offensive, the main U.S. task forces that appeared off Japan Proper accompanied by 10-odd aircraft carriers, principally attacked with their planes, the airfields in the Kanto district and Shizuoka Prefecture on February 16 and 17.

On the other hand, the strong U.S. fleet consisting of aircraft carriers and battleships simultaneously continued to bomb and bombard Yiojima Island following its appearance off the island on February 16. A part of this fleet is accompanied by a group of landing barges and transports while a large convoy is steaming in the rear apparently with the aim of effecting a landing on Yiojima.

Japanese Anti-Air Raid Forces continued to counterattack the enemy carrier-borne planes over Japan Proper, while the Japanese Forces on Yiojima are fighting grimly, achieving great war results.

On the Luzon Front, the Japanese Forces in the area north of the Luzon Plain continue to hold their position on the line extending from Damortis, San Manuel, and Santo Tomas. In fierce shock attacks, the Japanese are inflicting heavy losses on the U.S. invaders in "bleeding" operations.

The enemy troops near Damortis are now on the defensive and are trying to bolster their position by constructing barricades and pill-boxes.

In the Clark sector, the Japanese in the area west of Bamban continued their repeated counterattacks on the invaders which suffered huge personnel losses aggregating more than 3,000 killed or wounded in severe engagements fought between February 5 and 10. A small number of enemy planes started to use the air base in the Clark Field area on February 10.

Taking up their positions on the entire length of the line south of the Pasig River and holding the MacKinley Barracks, Japanese Units in the Manila sector are engaged in stiff street fighting. Heavy blows are being inflicted on the U.S. invasion troops, namely, the 37th Division, the 1st Cavalry Division and part of the 11th Air-Borne Division that advanced from the South. The main strength of the 11th Air-Borne Division is still blocked at a point near Aga.

In Manila, the Japanese killed or wounded 2,780 enemy troops between February 3 and 10, besides blasting 26 tanks, seven armored cars, and 19 guns.

The two enemy divisions that landed in the Subic Bay area met heavy Japanese attacks and their forward drive has now been halted at a point on the Bataan Peninsula.

At the airfields in the Lingayen Bay area the number of enemy planes now total 300, the greater part of which is composed of small craft.

Enemy Shells Yiojima

With 10-odd aircraft carriers as the mainstay, U.S. task forces appeared in the neighboring waters of Japan Proper on the morning of February 16 when their carrier-borne planes aggregating more than 1,000 raided the Kanto district and Shizuoka Prefecture in waves from 7 a.m. to shortly after 4 p.m. The raiders principally attacked airfields as well as other military establishments.

In the meantime, an enemy fleet of 30-odd craft, consisting of battleships and aircraft carriers started to bombard Yiojima early on the morning of the same day with the aim of landing on the island, the intermediate base used by the Japanese Forces in their attacks on the American positions in the Mariana Islands. The enemy warships are still plying in the neighboring waters of Japan Proper.

In parallel with their bombing attacks the enemy ship-based planes dropped handbills.

The main strength of the U.S. carrier-borne planes penetrated the skies over the Kanto district and Shizuoka Prefecture while a part of them raided Fukushima Prefecture, Hachijo and Niijima islands in waves.

With fighter planes as their mainstay, the enemy air formations consisting of F6F's and SB2D's not only attacked Japanese air bases and other military installations, but also bombed and strafed traffic facilities, running trains, and shipping.

According to enemy reports, the hostile task forces are under the command of Vice-Admiral Marc Mitscher and Admiral Raymond Spruance.

22 NAVAL FLIERS HONORED WITH POSTHUMOUS ORDERS

Awarded Shukun Ko for Great Services Rendered in Asia War Theaters

The posthumous conferment of Shukun Ko or Special Distinction Orders upon Captain Joji Hirai and 21 other Navy officers who had distinguished themselves in aerial operations on various fronts in Greater East Asia and who previously had been promoted by two ranks was announced by the Navy Ministry on Saturday.

Text of the announcement follows: "Captain Joji Hirai and 21 other Navy officers who had rendered meritorious services in aerial battles in various war theaters in Greater East Asia and who were specially promoted by two ranks have now been awarded Shukun Ko or Special Distinction Orders."

Captain Hirai, the holder of the Third Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun who distinguished himself in a series of attacks on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons, particularly rendered great military services in the Sea Battle of Rennel Island, sinking one enemy battleship and one cruiser, thereby meeting glorious death.

Captain Kaoru Ishihara, Commander of a Fighter Plane Unit, achieved great results in the Naval Battle of the Coral Sea following his participation in the fighting in the Solomon area. He also rendered great services in the Sea Battle off Malay at the outset of the war. Later, Captain Ishihara, as Commander of the Air Forces on Tarawa, smashed the enemy task forces in the Aerial Battle of the Gilbert Islands. When the enemy troops landed he fought valiantly and was killed in action. Captain Ishihara was posthumously awarded the Third Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun.

Captain Tatsuo Ichihara, the recipient of the Third Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun was the Unit Commander of a Bomber Plane Unit based on an aircraft carrier which surprise-attacked Hawaii at the commencement of the War of Greater East Asia. He also rendered distinguished services in the Naval Battle of the Coral Sea. Then as the Commander of a land-based Air Unit in the Solomon area he achieved big war results in attacking enemy warships at the time of the landing of the U.S. forces in the Torokina area and died in action.

Commander Kenjiro Notomi of a carrier-borne Fighter Plane Unit rendered meritorious services in the Coral Sea Battle, the 2nd Sea Battle of the Solomons, and other operations in the New Guinea area. He met glorious death in the 2nd Aerial Battle off Bougainville Island after vigorously attacking the enemy task forces. The late Commander Notomi was awarded the Fourth Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun.

The other Navy airmen who have been honored by the conferment of Shukun Ko and were posthumously awarded various martial orders of Golden Kite and of the Rising Sun include Commanders Tsuyoshi Sejmiya, Ei Miyao, Masayuki Suzuhara, Toshimasa Uyeyama, Shigehiro Chuma, Lieutenant Commanders Yoshio Oba, Mikihiko Sakamoto, First Class Sublieutenant Tokiyoshi Nishikawa, Second Class Sublieutenants Toshiji Ichida, Kiyoshi Akiyoshi, Mikio Yamamoto, Kinjiro Murazaki, Takeichi Maki, Norimasa Sada, Tarao Ishida, Shigeru Eto, Yoshinori Kimura, and Flight Petty Officer Bunzaburo Yanaginuma.

B-29's Using Tinian Base

Domei

LISBON, February 17.—General Henry Arnold, commander of the U.S 20th Bomber Command, announced today that the B-29's are now also operating from the new base on Tinian Island, according to a dispatch from Washington, which added that Brigadier General John H. Davis is the commanding general of the newly-activated 330th Wing based on Tinian and that this unit is a part of Major General Lemay's 21st Bomber Command.

Given Palace Audience

Mamoru Shigemitsu, Foreign Minister, and concurrently Greater East Asiatic Affairs Minister, proceeded to the Imperial Palace at 4.30 p.m. Friday, and reported to His Majesty the Emperor on matters relating to foreign affairs.

Bitter Battle Raging On Corregidor Isle As U.S. Troops Land

Domei

PHILIPPINE BASE, February 17.—Following up intense fleet bombardment and bombing attacks, enemy air-borne troops landed on Corregidor Island yesterday morning, while simultaneously enemy troops on board several score landing barges landed on the southern part of the Island where severe fighting is now developing.

JAPANESE HOLDING FIRM IN STRUGGLE AT MANILA

Battles Continue Undiminished With Nippon Units Tenaciously in Control

By T. TADA
Of the Military Press Corps

FOREMOST LUZON FRONT, February 17.—In the face of overwhelmingly large American troops, the Japanese garrison in Manila still maintains control over the former Spanish city, and the area along the southern bank of the Pasig River including Daitoa Street, the coastal area in the vicinity of the Polo Club at Pasay, the sector east of Nichols airfield and the former American barracks at MacKinley.

Japanese Units under the command of Major Nouchi occupying the left wing of this front have been locked in death struggles amid intense enemy bombardment while combined Army and Navy Units under Second Sub-Lieutenant Tanaka carried out severe counter-attacks against an enemy company armed with five tanks which attacked the Japanese positions at the northwestern sector of MacKinley on February 14, setting ablaze two tanks.

Japanese Units stationed in the vicinity of the Nichols arifield successfully repulsed five enemy tanks that attacked their positions at 2 p.m. the same day.

With power and water supply systems in Manila put out of commission, the conflagration caused by gunfire provides the only light at night. The enemy is seriously suffering from shortage of water but is continuing desperate attempts to capture Manila which has now been reduced to ashes except for heaps of burnt zinc sheets and iron frames.

Counterattacks Effective

By M. MATSUZAKI
Of the Military Press Corps

FOREMOST LUZON FRONT, February 16.—With enemy attacks in Manila increasingly intensified, Japanese troops are putting up furious resistance inflicting enormous casualties on the American invaders.

After 12 days of embittered fighting, enemy troops transported on hundreds of lorries have daily increased and on February 12 enemy bombing attacks and bombardment were particularly severe. On February 13, most of the great buildings south of the Pasig River including the Municipal Office and the National Assembly building were razed by the enemy bombing and shelling, while the entire city is wrapped in flames.

A Japanese contingent under Second Sub-Lieutenant Masaki Nishiwaki of the Imperial Navy occupying a section in the Nichols airfield area launched heroic counter-attacks on February 13 against the enemy hordes which attacked the Japanese positions under the protection of scores of tanks and armored cars as well as intense trench mortar fire. In spite of mounting losses, these men carried on gallant battle throughout the day setting ablaze 10 enemy tanks and killing or wounding more than 100 enemy soldiers. Toward evening, the heroic garrison found its personnel reduced only to 12 with all arms destroyed. Nevertheless, they carried out a daring night raid under cover of darkness, in inflicting additional 50 casualties on the enemy.

Fighting was intensified also in the Clark Field area and the enemy succeeded in penetrating Japanese positions under the protection of aircraft and tanks, on February 12. The Japanese continued furious bombardment and storm assaults.

While fleet bombardment was intensified against Corregidor Island indicating a enemy attempt to force their way into the Manila Bay, Japanese Army and Navy troops stationed on the fortress island are maintaining firm control over the entrance of the Bay. Japanese positions northeast of Tagaital are also held secure by the local garrison,

147 CARRIER PLANES SHOT DOWN, OVER 50 HIT IN FRIDAY'S RAID

1 Warship of U.S. Task Forces Damaged; Americans Continue Air Attacks

The American carrier-borne planes continued to attack the Kanto district and Shizuoka Prefecture from about 7 a.m. on February 17 following the raid made on the previous day; the Imperial Headquarters announced in its communique issued at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Imperial Japanese Forces shot down 147 enemy planes and damaged more than 50, besides heavily damaging one large warship in counterattacks on the enemy task forces on February 16, while 61 Japanese planes self-blasted or have not yet returned, the same communique added.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNIQUE

3:30 p.m. February 17

"1. Enemy carrier-borne planes continued to attack the Kanto district and Shizuoka Prefecture from about 7 a.m. on February 17 following the raid of the previous day.

"Of the war results gained in counterattacking the enemy task forces that attacked Japan Proper on February 16 those confirmed up to the present follow:

Shot down .... 147 planes
Damaged More than 50 "
Heavily damaged and set ablaze .... 1 large warship

"A total of 61 planes self-blasted or have not yet returned on our side.

"Damage caused to ground facilities was slight."

CHURCHILL MAKING REPORT

Parliament to Hear Prime Minister On Crimea Conference

Domei

STOCKHOLM, February 17.—Prime Minister Winston Churchill is expected to report to the British Parliament on the Crimea Conference almost immediately on his return to London, according to a dispatch from that city. Some political observers in London prophesy that the speech which will probably take close to two hours will be in its worldwide implications the most important the British war leader has yet made.

Parliamentary arrangements have been left in fluid condition so this business can be adjusted to make time both for the speech and full dress two-day parliamentary debate on the war situation which is expected to follow it, it was further disclosed.

It is anticipated that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden if he returns with Churchill will wind up the debate on the second day.

U.S. Confirms Resignation

Domei

LISBON, February 17.—The U.S. State Department today confirmed reports that Nelson Johnson had resigned as U.S. Ambassador to Australia, according to a dispatch from Washington, which added that no details were given as to the date of his return or regarding his successor.

preventing the enemy 11th air-borne division from advancing into Manila. Japanese contingents at Angat are also continuing their storm assaults checking the enemy attempt to supply and reinforce their comrade troops within Manila.

By Y. YOSHIMURA
Of the Military Press Corps

FOREMOST LUZON FRONT, February 16.—As Japanese Units entrenched in their mountain positions at Aga carried on their struggle to check the attempts of the enemy troops of two divisions strong landed at Nasugbu to force their way toward Manila, special Japanese raiding forces on the night of February 13 carried out a counterlanding at Nasugbu on board several [illegible].

Penetrating deep into the bridgehead, these storm parties blasted or set ablaze enemy encampments and also smashed heavy gun batteries with hand grenades putting the enemy troops into utter confusion. Fires started by the Japanese attackers could be seen from distant Japanese positions.

SPIRIT MUST BE
DING SPIRIT OF JAPAN

Time for Nation to Con-
ate Its Entire Strength
Up Fighting Power

is the second instalment of Mr.
s article exhorting every mem-
the Japanese nation to exert
most in overcoming the present
situation. Mr. Oneda is a
of the Military Press Corps
returned recently from the
ine battlefront.

cannot be a surplus of
no matter how many are
tured. It is a habit of the
race that its conviction in
victory grows stronger the
he war situation becomes
There is no "second try"
I would like to have the
at home clearly understand
is the time, and the only
concentrate their entire
in increasing the nation's
strength, to give every-
ey have to realize the most
production method, and
Armed Forces, Government
people, especially the wo-
o must replace the men, to
in the defense of their
nd.

war was destined from the
g to be a series of battles
craft as the main weapon.
uch fighting strength have
mulated during the time
ny has been switching his
structure over to the in-
production of arms, esp-
round aircraft, and steadily
ahead in the execution of
duction plans running into
ical figures? Were we not
wer-imbued with a feeling
ity and wishful thinking?

war has reached a stage
is attitude can no longer
There has never been
field of a decisive war of
rity to both Japan and the
Japanese officers and men
on Luzon, Leyte and
Islands, are undergoing
beyond description be-
do not have air supre-
hey are having to shoulder
arry bombs in their arms,
th bayonets and bamboo
their hands hurt them-
dily against the American
ho surge ahead, secure in
wledge that they are safe
of their numerically
scientific weapons.

eceives the deep impression
y all the Japanese officers
have become Special
orps. They have only one
and that is to make Japan
The spirit of the Special
orps can only be acquired
ng one's self.

ugh the situation on Luzon
not to the advantage of the
Forces, it goes without
hat they will continue to
protracted decisive war of
ciency until the last enemy
killed even if they have
n grass roots. The entire
Armed Forces will con-
gain time, shedding their
d, until Japan's air might
to enable her to switch
he offensive. The group of
at Clark Field, which is
irthplace" of the Shinpu
Attack Corps, is now in
ands.

shall we reply to the spirits
umerous brave pilots? Just
can be no decisive battle
fleets without air supre-
ere cannot be a main land
without air control. We
cover our eyes before this
The way to victory lies in
g our air strength. Matters
quire speedy revision, must
d. A powerful production
must be established. We
d airplanes to the Philip-
front, first of all. We must
forge ahead in production
and make a fresh start in
f Greater East Asia with
ermination."

alty of Shinpu Corps

troops which invaded
ave razed the Escolta busi-
on to the ground. How-
on should the enemy reduce
to utter ruins, this will be
to the Japanese Forces as
now a mere cultural city,
n deprived of its mili-
political value by the Japa-

is extremely difficult to
ut most simple to retake.
important point is that
y has invaded the group
se at Clark Field. The
entire Luzon will be full
planes if the enemy is
to use these air bases at
d and allowed to construct
ew air bases. It goes with-
that the enemy will de-
airplanes such as the B-
which will further inten-
air raids against Taiwan,
and Japan Proper. The
nute between the Philip-
Japan will be severed as
with the Southern Regions.
erious situation will ensue
conditions be permit-
place. Also fighting by
Land Forces in the
will become ever more
a result.
up of air bases at Clark

Field. which is now being trampled upon by the muddy boots of the enemy, is the birthplace of the Shinpu Special Attack Corps whose memory still invokes tears of gratitude in the eyes of the 100,000,000 people of Japan. How should we reply to the spirit of these divine men of the Shinpu, Special Attack Corps who firmly believing in the absolute victory and security of Japan, crashed themselves against the enemy warships?

"It was because of the numerical inferiority of our planes that the Shinpu Special Attack fighting tactics were originated. Regardless of the great results attained by these Corps, however, the air supremacy was forced out of our hands because of the few planes which followed in their wake. As a result, the Land Units also were confronted with great hardships and difficulties in their fight against the enemy.

"Returning temporarily from the Luzon front to Japan, I think of the attacks which were carried out by the Shinpu Special Attack Corps and of the feelings and thoughts which the members must have had, and I feel as if my heart would be rent asunder. Why is it that a feeling of intense anger possesses me whenever I see the slogan: 'One Hundred Million People As a Special Attack Corps'? Has a single member of the Shinpu Special Attack Corps ever declared himself as such before anyone?

"The Japanese Armed Forces would have been spared the present difficulties if the 100,000,000 people of the country had actually responded as members of special attack corps. We can never win this war as long as there are egoistic and liberalistic 'drags' within the nation. There may be some who will say that they will become 'members' of special attack corps when the enemy lands on the Japanese mainland.

Example for All

"This shows, however, that the 100,000,000 people of the Empire do not thoroughly understand the spirit of these special attack corps. The members of the Shinpu Special Attack Corps were able to carry out their mission because they had clearly grasped the inevitability of the present situation. They became members of the Corps before waiting for the enemy's further moves. It is too late to understand a situation after one has been hit on the head. The action of the members of the Shinpu Attack Corps is an example for the entire people of Japan to follow. They should change their way of thinking, efface self, formulate strong measures for victory and make the utmost efforts to increase the output of war weapons, especially that of aircraft.

"It is because I am firmly of the belief that each member of the Yamato race is at heart a member of a special attack corps that I reflect on the creation of the Shinpu Special Attack Corps—today, when the war situation is literally confronted with a grave crisis. I would like to have the 100,000,000 people of the Empire concentrate all their faculty and strength on victory alone, without any pretext or complaint.

"The forerunners of the Shinpu Special Attack Corps are the Shikishima Unit under Captain Yukio Seki and the following Units whose deeds have been announced and lauded by the Navy Ministry: Yamato, Asahi, Yamazakura, Kikusui, Wakazakura, Hazakura, Hatsuzakura, Sesei, Baika, Sakon and a certain fighter plane squadron, consisting mainly of "Zero" fighter planes, which is sending out one special attack corps after another.

"It was the innumerable Japanese Navy air pilots who, though not having been known under any special name, met heroic deaths when they crashed themselves together with their planes against the enemy, first adopted the special attack fighting tactics of sure death by body crashing. The Japanese Navy Air Force with its brilliant traditions and superb achievements regard them as the 'cream' of the Air Force."

(To Be Continued)

Reich Is Only Nation To Prevent Disorder In Europe, Says Hedin

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—"If Germany is actually defeated, entire Europe would be done for and also Britain's death knell would be sounded as soon as Premier Josef Stalin's policy is carried through to a logical conclusion," declared the Swedish explorer, Sven Hedin, in an interview which he granted to the representative of Voelkischer Beobachter in Stockholm today. Mr. Hedin added that the Germans are the only nation "which has the moral and physical force to save not only itself but all of Europe from hopeless chaos and unimaginable disaster."

Venezuela Enters Conflict

Domei

LISBON, February 16.—Following Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, the Venezuelan Republic on February 16 declared war on Japan and Germany, according to a Caracas dispatch.

WILHELMSTRASSE BARES CHURCHILL-FRANCO TALKS

Correspondence Reveals British Premier Opposes Plan Directed Against Moscow

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—The contents of the correspondence between Spanish Chief of State General Francisco Franco and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, about which information has been vainly sought in the British House of Commons have been released by a reliable source.

It will be recalled that various versions were current as to the contents of this correspondence. There are various reasons to believe that the following version is correct: The Spanish Chief of State at the end of 1944, presumably in November, sent a lengthy message to the Spanish Ambassador to London. The Duke of Alba—not to Churchill. In this message General Franco laid down his ideas on the European situation in connection with the British western pact plans. He expressed the opinion that the planned western pact could be fruitful for Europe only if it was imbued with the idea of saving at least western European civilization from threatening Bolshevism. This message the Duke of Alba, who is known to have excellent personal relations with Churchill, showed to the British Prime Minister. Thereupon Churchill answered General Franco directly although the message was not addressed to him.

In this letter, Churchill, although conciliatory in form, declared flatly that the British Government would take part in no political plans or activities which pointed against Moscow. This conception is strongly emphasized in Churchill's letter and he used this letter as a diplomatic preparation for the then impending "Big Three" Conference. A copy of this letter was given to the Soviet Ambassador to London in order to assure Premier Josef Stalin that Churchill in every respect was loyal to the Anglo-Soviet agreement. Reich Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop's spokesman on Friday's foreign press conference dealt with the correspondence between General Franco and Churchill with reference to the Spanish foreign policy. He did not comment on the correspondence but with regard to the Spanish foreign policy declared that all attempts of Spanish quarters to make a contact with England have failed.

The Wilhelmstrasse is of the opinion that Churchill's policy on principle is anti-Falangist. In this connection, the spokesman declared that it was a mistake of many Spaniards to believe they might be excepted from London's anti-Fascist course. The spokesman stated: "For 250 years, England has been wanting a weak Spain. As long as there is at Madrid a regime which has made independence and national honor its watchword, London will be opposed to Spain."

BRITISH, YANKS, SOVIETS AWAIT FRANCE'S DECISION

Security Council's Voting Plan Will Be Bared When French Approval Obtained

Domei

LISBON, February 16.—Only the approval by France is needed for the world-wide publication of the proposed voting formula for the United Nations World Security Council, according to a dispatch from Washington. Since Chungking immediately approved the voting formula and agreed to be a conference sponsor, the American, British and the Soviet Governments are now awaiting the approval by the De Gaulle regime which has not yet been received, the dispatch said.

The French Cabinet is slated to consider the question at a meeting today, according to a Paris dispatch.

The U.S. State Department more or less confirmed that the formula follows the lines of the solution offered at Dumbarton Oaks by the British, another Washington dispatch disclosed, which continued, consequently it is expected that the formula will be in the following pattern:

Decisions would be by a simple majority vote of an 11-nation council in cases not involving such "last-step" measures as economic pressure or military force. None of the parties to the dispute in such cases would have the right to vote. Decisions in cases involving economic or military measures against an aggressor nation would be by a majority vote of the council, provided the majority always included the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, Chungking and France. That rule would prevail even though one of the Big Five was a party to a dispute, thus giving those nations a veto power against collective punitive action against themselves.

Such a formula, for example, would make it impossible for one of the permanent members to prevent the council from considering an issue in which that permanent member is involved. Likewise it would not be possible for a big Power to prevent the council from accusing it of aggression and thus calling upon public opinion for future action, the dispatch added.

Enemy Carrier Planes Used in Attack On Japan Resemble Japanese Fighters

The enemy carrier-borne planes which attacked the Japanese mainland on Friday, including the Curtiss SB2C-1, Grumman F6F-1, Douglas SBD-3, Vought-Sikorski B4U-1 and Grumman TBF-1 are small and resemble Japanese fighter planes. Their maneuverability is high and they are able to make quick diving attacks. The fact that the enemy aircraft dived to 200 to 300 meters from an altitude of 3,000 to 5,000 meters reveals their superior diving capacity.

In view of the resemblance of enemy aircraft to Japanese planes, it is necessary for the Japanese people to be well acquainted with the types of enemy machines so as not to take them for Japanese aircraft.

The Curtiss SB2C-1, called the Hell Diver, is a dive-bomber plane. It is far smarter than the others of the same type and capable of carrying twice as heavy a load and is also twice as heavily armed. It's speed is 160 kilometers faster than the others. It is a monoplane with its wings slanting slightly upward. The plane is usually manned by a crew of two despite the fact that the fuselage is big due to its air-cooled engine. Its tail is thick up to its vertical rudder. The width of the wings is 15.13 meters and the entire length from the nose to the tail, 10.71 meters. Its maximum speed is said to be 466 kilometers per hour and it is capable of cruising 1,750 kilometers carrying a load of 545 kilograms. It is equipped with one 7.7-milimeter and two 12.7-millimeter machineguns.

The Grumman F6F-1 generally called the Hell-Cat fighter is a reversion of the F4F-3 called the Wild Cat which has made its debut since the start of the Greater East Asiatic War. Its fuselage is of a oval shape and the cover of the engine, is also oval. The wings are horizontal near the fuselage, but sharply slanting upward at the tip. The width of the wings is said to be 13 meters and equipped with air-cooled mono-engine. It resembles Japanese fighter planes, particularly the Shoki whose fuselage is a little shorter than that of the Grumman F6F-1. Three 12.7-milimeter machineguns are placed at each of the main wings, and it is capable of carrying a load of 200 kilograms.

The Douglas SBD-3 called the Dauntless is a dive-bomber. The U.S. Navy is said to be using it greatly in various war theaters. The width of the wings is 12.65 meters and the length of the whole plane 9.65 meters. The nose equipped with air-cooled engine is short and thick, and the vertical rudder looks like a fin. The end of the tail is extremely slender. Its maximum cruising capacity is 465 kilometers an hour, and it is capable of flying 1,500 kilometers. It is provided with two 12.7-milimeter and two 7.7-milimeter machineguns. Bombs weighing 450 kilograms can be carried.

The Vought-Sikorski F4U-1 is a fighter plane generally called the Coisair. It is a standard carrier-borne fighter plane used by the U.S. Navy. Its main wings look like "W" upside down with round tips. Looking up from below, it can be easily mistaken for the Japanese Hayabusa fighter plane. That a great number of them have been active in the Pacific theater is indicated by the Americans who have said they have been using it mainly in their attack against the Japanese Forces. It is a monoplane manned by only one airman. The width of the wings is 12.20 meters, and the length of the whole plane, 9.60 meters. The maximum speed is said to be 570 kilometers an hour and it has a 1,500 kilometer cruising range. The fighter is equipped with four 12.7-milimeter and 7.7 milimeter machineguns.

The Grumman TBF-1 is a torpedo plane called the Avenger. Being able to carry a ton of bombs, the Grummans constitute the main strength of the carrier-borne air force. The fuselage is extremely wide and looking at it from the side, it is hard to distinguish the tail and the nose from the fuselage. The wings are straight and become narrower at the tip which is cut blunt. It's speed is said to be 440 kilometers at the maximum, and it is capable of cruising 2,300 kilometers. The width of the wings is 16.15 meters and the plane is equipped with, three 12.7 milimeter machineguns. It can carry a load of 545 kilograms.

AMERICAN SOLON SEEKS LENIENCY FOR ITALIANS

Representative Marcantonio of N.Y. Makes Resolution to Soften Truce Terms

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 15.—Parallel to the Bonomi Government's appeal to mitigate the armistice terms imposed on Italy, members of the U.S. Congress with Italian-American constituents are likewise calling for the softening of the truce conditions, the Daily Telegraph correspondent in Washington reported on February 9, according to a report from that city.

He said that Representative Vito Marcantonio, American Laborite of New York, has introduced a resolution demanding that Italy be admitted as a full member of the United Nations.

The terms of the armistice have never been made public but Congressional circles believe they include the loss by the Italians of all colonies, cession of the Pantelleria Island to Britain, Trieste and Fiume area ceded to Jugoslavia and the Dodecanese to Greece.

The correspondent said that the economic terms are equally harsh for Italy is being forced to pay the cost of all services, supplies and labor required by the Allied Command in Italy. It is alleged that the British have taken 250,000 tons of food for their forces during the past three months.

Meanwhile, the correspondent of the News Chronicle reporting from Rome said that Premier Bonomi sent a long telegram to the Crimea Conference appealing for consideration of the moral and material claims of "liberated" Italy.

Bonomi's telegram is in addition to the 100-page memorandum on the Italian plight presented to Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's personal adviser, during his visit in Rome by Foreign Minister Aloide de Gaspari.

The correspondent said that the Italian moral and material problems consist mainly of the "ambiguous status" of a co-belligerent. He said that he understood that Bonomi has asked for the status of alliance. From the material side, he said the problem is Italy's inability to pay the staggering terms imposed by the armistice.

UNREST GROWING IN INDIA OVER STALEMATED STATE

Groups and Individuals in Country Active in Attempt to Solve Deadlock

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 16.—Signs are not lacking of India's growing discontent with the prolongation of the stalemated political situation in the country, reports the New Delhi correspondent of the Times, London, The correspondent quotes the activities of various groups and individuals in an attempt to solve the existing crisis in the country.

The correspondent further reports:

Although 1944 ended with the political and communal deadlock, and the Congress party leaders still in jail, signs are not wanting of the country's growing discontent with the prolongation of a stalemate.

The All-India Hindu Mahasabha Executive Committee approved the "Draft Constitution for Free India" which envisages bicameral, federal legislative elections to the federal and provincial legislatures on the basis of an adult franchise.

Such a constitution contemplates the native states being brought into the federation of Hindustan, and claims the Hindustan is "Historically, politically, ethnologically and culturally one, whole indivisible and shall remain so."

It also states that the federal government "shall be distributed between the Central and Provincial Legislatures in a manner that will give an adequate measure of autonomy to the provinces and with powers at the center."

M. N. Roy, leader of the Radical Democratic Party, who on December 8 published his draft constitution, also visualizes a bicameral federal government at the center with both chambers sitting together with the Governor General—a name was proposed for the elected head of the state—and the forming of the Supreme People's Council.

The federal union would be formed by the autonomous provinces created by the provisional government as far as possible on the basis of a cultural, linguistic, homogeneity, and freely agreeing to unite in the federation.

The provinces would be given the right to keep out of the federal union but they must be governed by a provisional constitution. The federal union would be a member of a larger federation of the British Commonwealth provided it was called Indo-British Commonwealth of the free people's, and India's membership of the Indo-British Commonwealth would be stipulated by the treaty.

After the formation of a federal union, the federating units would have an inherent right to secede but within the jurisdiction of the Union of the Supreme People's Council which would be depository of all state powers.

Roy claims that his draft avoids the rocks on which the Government of India Act of 1935 was founded. He says: "The Moslem League viewpoint has been fully met. The demand for the separation of certain regions before the transfer of the power to the people of India as she is at present constituted runs against the problem of the procedure.

"The draft eliminates that problem. The transfer of the power takes place on the basis of treating India as a constitutional unit. Thereafter the provinces will be delimited by the provisional government which will not be responsible to any Indian body and will be at liberty not to join the federation.

"On the other hand, the provision for the separation of the provinces desiring a separate draft provides for the federal structure. Federalism and centralism are reconciled."

Regarding the position of the princes which proved to be a stumbling block to the promulgation of the federal part of the 1935 Act, Roy says that time and the changing circumstances invalidate the treaties between the crown and feudatory States and the constitution he proposes vogualizes the disappearance of feudatory states and their incorporation with the neighboring provinces as to the principle of the linguistic and cultural homogenity.

POLISH GENERAL BACKS ARCISZEWSKI'S CABINET

Anners Says Regime in London Denounces Occupation of Poland by Soviets

Domei

STOCKHOLM, February 16.—Fully supporting the passionate outburst of Prime Minister Tomasz Arciszewski of the exile Polish Government in London that his Government "will never surrender," General Anners, commander of the Polish troops fighting under the British on the Italian front, also denounced the Soviet occupation of Poland today.

His order of the day declared, "We shall never recognize the unilateral decisions" of the Yalta Conference. He stressed, "Nothing can induce the Polish soldiers to deviate from the path of honor and of fighting for unadulterated independence."

At the same time, the General sent a telegram to Prime Minister Arciszewski expressing his loyalty and emphasizing that his troops would only recognize the Polish exile Government in London.

Opposes Crimea Decision

Domei

STOCKHOLM, February 16.—At a press reception Thursday, Polish Premier Tomasz Arciszewski of the exile Polish Government in London confirmed the decision of his Government to reject the solution of the Polish problem decided at the Crimea Conference. Arciszewski said, according to the London correspondent of the Goeteborgs Handels-och Sjoefarts Tidning that the Polish nation did not believe in the promises of a free and independent Poland.

"Any kind of election in Poland under a foreign occupation and under the supervision of the OGPU is a pure fiction," he said. The Premier accused the Soviets of having taken food and gold from Poland and added that conditions in Poland had deteriorated since the Germans were driven out.

"The Soviets did not recognize the Polish civil administration. They arrested and deported officers and soldiers of the Polish Home Army and shot many of them." he continued.

The Premier's statement was not favorably received in the London press. The Times for instance writes that the Polish followers of Arciszewski intended to offer political opposition within and outside of Poland against the decisions of the Crimea Conference and against any kind of Polish Government which would be formed on the basis of these decisions.

BUILDINGS IN DRESDEN HIT

Many Famous Landmarks Destroyed by Anglo-American Raiders

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—The Anglo-American terror raids on Dresden destroyed one of the most noble German and European towns. Besides numerous private houses there was a number of magnificent buildings completely wrecked as already reported.

One of the finest buildings destroyed is the Zwinger built by Daniel Poepplemann under August the Strong, a treasure of the European Rococco. Almost just as heavy a cultural loss is that of the castle's ancient picture gallery which, as generally known, once contained the Sixtinische Madonna.

German Guns Blast 2 British Landings On Schouwen Island

Domei

BERLIN, February 16.—Two British attempts to land on the Dutch island of Schouwen were beaten back by German coastal batteries yesterday, it was learned today. Before dawn yesterday, British units attempted a landing on the island, but failed in the face of stiff fire from the coastal batteries. A second attempt was made but likewise failed and the British were compelled to withdraw leaving behind weapons and ammunition. Three of the landing craft were damaged so severely that they had to be towed away.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

February 16

Further groups of the garrison of Budapest have fought their way through to our lines. In fierce attacks, the Soviets in Slovakia broke through on either side of the Losone-Altsohl Road in local penetrations which were sealed off. In lower Silesia our resistance stiffened so that the enemy could expand his area of penetration only slightly yesterday. Successful counterattacks compelled him to regroup his forces. Strong enemy attacks southwest of Breslau, west of Bunzlau and on either side of Sagan failed. In the southern part of Pomerania the temporarily lost connection with our bases of Bahn and Arnswalde was restored.

In West Prussia the enemy pressure between Landeck and Graudenz continued undiminished. In the course of heavy defensive fighting the enemy was able to penetrate into Konitz and Tuchel. In East Prussia renewed attempts by the enemy to break through south of Braunsberg, east of Mehlsack and at Zinten were frustrated after slight territorial gain. In heavy fighting 51 tanks were destroyed there.

In Holland enemy forces tried to land on the island of Schouwen. They were driven back into the sea by the garrison.

In the battle between the lower Rhine and the Meuse our troops scored a new defensive success. All attempts by the British with the center of gravity on the Cleve-Kalkar road were shattered. South of that area the enemy who attacked in vain eight times sustained severest losses. Also on the southern edge of the Reichswald the enemy was repelled.

Attacks by the Americans from out of their bridgehead between Wallendorf and Echternach remained without any noteworthy success or were shattered while still in their initial stages. Southeast of Remich on the Moselle local fighting has increased again. Our counterattacks drove the enemy who had penetrated temporarily into our positions back again. Yesterday morning formations of the 115th American army corps launched an attack between Saargemuend and the lower Vosges after strong artillery preparation. South of Bliesbruck they were driven back in a counterattack. East of that area fighting is continuing.

In Croatia mopping up operations in the Pafuk Mountain is being continued.

North-American bombers continued their terror attack in central and southeastern Germany yesterday. Damage was done especially in Magdeburg, Cottbus and Vienna.

London continues to be under our retaliation fire.

Facts Worth Noting

British Government

Winston S. Churchill—Prime Minister
Clement Attlee—Deputy Prime Minister
Ernest Bevin—Labor and National Service Minister
Lord Selborne—Economic Welfare Min.
Lord Cranborne—Lord Privy Seal
Anthony Eden—Foreign Secretary
Oliver Lyttelton—Wartime Production Minister
Herbert Morrison—Home Secretary
Albert V. Alexander—First Lord of Admiralty
Leopold Amery—Sec. of State for India
Lord Beaverbrook—Postwar Civil Aviation Minister
Brendan Bracken—Information Minister
Ernest Brown—Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster
Richard Butler—President of Board of Education
Lord Cherwell—Paymaster-General
Sir Stafford Cripps—Aircraft Production Minister
Harry F. C. Crookshank—Postmaster-General
Hugh Dalton—President of Board of Trade
Sir Andrew Duncan—Supply Minister
Thomas Johnston—Sec. of State for Scotland
Lord Leathers—Transport Minister
John J. Llewellin—Foods Minister
Gwilym Lloyd George—Fuel and Power Minister
Sir Walter Monckton—Chief of Propaganda in Near East
W. S. Morrison—Town and Country Planning Minister
Lord Portal—Public Works Minister
Sir T. D. King Murray—Solicitor-General for Scotland
J. S. C. Reid—Lord Advocate
Sir Donald Somervell—Attorney-General
Sir James Grigg—Sec. of State for War
Sir Archibald Sinclair—Sec. of State for Air
Oliver Standley—Sec. of State for Colonies
Henry Willinsk—Health Minister
Lord Woolton—Reconstruction Minister
Robert Hudson—Agriculture and Forestry Minister
Lord Simon—Lord Chancellor
Sir W. J. Womersley—Minister of Pensions
David Grenfell—Mining Minister
Sir Arthur Salter—Shipping Minister
Sir Jerome Raisoman—Min. of Internal Affairs in India
Arthur Greenwood—State Minister
Sir John Anderson—Chancellor of the Exchequer
Richard K. Law—Assistant Foreign Secretary
Lenox Boyd—Undersecretary of Aircraft Production
Sir Alexander Cadogan—Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Sir Victor Warrender—Undersecretary of Navy
Duke of Dorchester—Undersecretary of State for Colonies
Sir Maurice Hankey—Chief Cabinet Secretary
P. Dunstan—Undersecretary of State for India
Sir Samuel Hood—Secretary of Information Ministry
Gen. R. H. Bruce-Lockhart—Director of Propaganda
Harold Butler—Director of Information Service in U.S.
Duke of Devonshire—Undersecretary for Dominion Affairs
Robert Brabner—Parliamentary Undersecretary for Air
John Wilmot—Secretary of Supply Min.
Lord Bruntisfield—Secretary to Admiralty
Eric Gore Browne—Commissioner for Rubber Goods

BRITISH ARE EMBARRASSED BY FRANCO-SYRIAN RIFT

Crisis Develops Over De Gaulle Regime's Dilatory Attitude Toward Arab States

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 13.—The serious crisis which has developed between France and Syria threatens to make Great Britain's position extremely delicate, writes the diplomatic correspondent of the News Chronicle on Feruary 6, adding that this rift is expected to be the main topic of the meeting at Cairo on February 14 of the foreign ministers of the seven Arab states signatory to the Alexandria Protocol. The article reads in gist:

The crisis between Syria and France is boiling up rapidly and involving Britain. Camille Chaumoun, Lebanese Minister to London, declared on February 5 that neither of the Levant states could admit France's claim of preponderant position and hence would sign no treaty giving France such a position.

This was in reply to President General Charles de Gaulle's statement on January 2 that, although France recognized the independence of the Lebanese, France would refuse to accede to the demands for the control of the native troops and for responsibility for the maintenance of internal security, unless the Syrian and Lebanese governments were prepared to sign a treaty recognizing France's preponderant position.

The Syrian and Lebanese reply is that they will sign no treaty until independence has been completed by the French relinquishment of control over the special troops and responsibility for internal security. They claim that they are precluded from signing any treaty giving special privileges to a third party, without consultation with all the other Arab states under the terms of the Alexandria Protocol of October 7, 1945.

The whole question of France's position with the Levant is certain to be the main topic of discussion at the next meeting in Cairo on February 14, of the foreign ministers of the seven Arab states signatory to the Alexandria Protocol. The feeling in all the other Arab states is strongly sympathetic with the Syrian case.

Great Britain, anxious to maintain good relations with both France and the Arab states, is in an extremely delicate position. It is recalled that De Gaulle recently told the press that France wants a settlement with Britain on all outstanding questions concerning Levant and the Near East, before discussing the Franco-British Alliance.

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U.S. COUNTEROFFENSIVE INCREASES IN FEROCITY

Yankees Put Main Stress on Planes to Protect Supply Lines, Extend Bases

Let us have a look at the general aerial counteroffensive of the enemy America which in its reliance on the large number of aircraft at its command has by force penetrated our country's first line of defense.

The quality and the quantity of planes are the factors which will determine which side shall have the power to influence the situation in a modern war. Thus they may be regarded as reflecting the total power of each of the belligerents.

From the time of the commencement of its offensive in the Pacific area at Guadalcanal Island the enemy America began to act on the principle of relying solely on planes in carrying out offensive operations.

Enemy Extends Air Bases

The enemy, in spite of the defeats sustained locally, contrived to improve its position from the point of view of the general situation and proceeded with the task of advancing and strengthening its air bases.

Let us consider now the strategy of the enemy which has been based on the principle of attaining absolute superiority in the various localities. The enemy made a point of establishing air bases before proceeding to the conquest of the territory.

It is no exaggeration to say that the enemy gave the naval and merchant vessels it had in such abundance, parts of secondary importance to play in operations in which its chief reliance was placed on planes. After Saipan Island fell into enemy hands and above all, after enemy troops landed on Leyte and Luzon Islands, a rapid change occurred in the trend of the war situation. The operations became complicated, and the clashes, which were violent, were between front and front.

Aim to Dominate P.I.

On the Philippine front, too, the enemy is putting its complete trust in planes. Possessing aircraft in large enough quantity to permit the protection of its extended supply line, the enemy is endeavoring to get into a position whereby it will be possible to bring the whole of the Philippines under the domination of its air force.

This is not all. The enemy, wishing to threaten the first defense line of our country, is sending its planes not only to the Ogasawara Islands and Ioto, which form Japan's foremost line of defense, but is also raiding Taiwan and the various islands in the southeast. The Japanese mainland itself is frequently visited by B-29 planes.

In this way the war situation has passed into a stage marked by a rapid increase in the severity of the fighting of the Japanese Forces.

The officers and men in the firing lines, feeling, as they do, the increased severity in the war situation more keenly than anybody else, are enduring all sorts of hardships. They are successfully holding their ground in war areas scattered over the Pacific and at the same time are exacting heavy sacrifices from the enemy. Exposed day and night to attacks by enemy planes, they are patiently waiting for the arrival of the day and the opportunity to turn the tables against the enemy.

The enemy is not slackening its efforts to extend the area where it is dominatingly strong in the air. Before and after the invasion of Leyte Island the enemy began to use its land-based and ship-based air strength alternately.

U.S. and P.I. Bridged

The enemy has completed the work, started at the time of its landing on Luzon Island, of building a bridge of planes connecting the American mainland and the Philippines. The headquarters of the enemy's Pacific Fleet seems to have been advanced to Omiyajima.

Under the circumstances it is to be expected that there will be a further increase in the direct attention paid by the enemy's air force to areas where fighting is proceeding and that the total energy of America and Britain will be employed in the carrying out of a large-scale aerial counteroffensive for the purpose of bringing about a collapse of the productive system on the Japanese mainland.

The bases from which the enemy has been conducting aerial counteroffensive operations in recent times are either in the Philippine theater of war, in the Central Pacific area with the Mariana Islands as the center, or in the Southwestern Pacific area centering in New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands. The operations the enemy is intending to conduct from these three groups of air bases are not the same in motive or character.

As soon as the enemy landed on Mindoro Island on the night of December 15 its task force suddenly made its appearance, and for three days, the 14th, 15th, and 16th, it attacked a number of places on Luzon Island with the purpose of cutting into the aerial strength of the Japanese Forces. Then one enemy convoy after another penetrated the Sulu Sea.

As the enemy strengthened its land air bases, enemy convoys without the protection of warships began to head for Luzon Island. This interval witnessed a phase of activity by the Special Attack Corps and air units of the Japanese Forces. Though the Corps and the air units were inferior in strength, they effectively checked the enemy.

At the end of last year large-sized and small-sized enemy planes, including B-29's and B-25's, began to come to attack Luzon Island. A total of nearly 1,000 enemy planes had attacked the Island by the early days of this year.

Obtaining a foothold in Luzon Island, America began to use the Lingayen airfield on January 15. It followed this up by hastily constructing an airfield at San Fabian.

As the enemy troops on Luzon made further penetrations, they advanced their air bases on the island northward. Toward the end of last month the enemy had extended the area where its small-sized land-based planes are dominant to the whole of North Luzon.

With this the air force of the enemy's fleet began to retrace its step from Luzon Island.

Enemy Gains Superiority

What should be remembered in this connection is the fact that the radius of operation of the enemy ground machines already includes Taiwan, the southwestern islands, and the China coast, and that the large enemy planes operating from continental bases are now able to cooperate with these ground machines. In other words, the enemy task forces may now detach themselves from the Philippine operations, with a margin for starting action in other directions. Consequently, the command of the sea and the air in the regions of the South China Sea and the Bashi Strait, it seems, is falling into the hands of the enemy.

The ground machines mentioned above are sent to the Philippine area by way of the islands lying between New Guinea and Morotai. In these islands, 2,500 planes, it is said, are standing by. The enemy machines coming from the direction of Peliliu are, however, increasing in number, and Ulsi north of Palao, has been turned by the enemy into an important transit base not only for aircraft but also for shipping. The enemy is thus pouring men and materials into Luzon, where the Japanese Forces are imposing huge losses not only in men but in materials. It should however be remembered that the strength of the air force will largely determine the issue of the Battle of Luzon.

In proportion to the development of enemy operations in the Philippines the raids on the islands of the Ogasawara groups by the Mariana-based aircraft of the enemy have increased in frequency. Along with this, the bombardments by enemy surface craft have also increased in frequency. The 21st bomber corps of the enemy, based on Saipan, has now been expanded, and incorporated into the newly established strategical air force. The number of B-29's base on Saipan, Omiyajima, and Tenian is put at 300, with the addition of a certain number of B-32's. These large-sized machines, sent directly from the United States, reach their Pacific bases in two or three days. In proportion to the increased number of enemy aircraft, the raids over the mainland of Japan will also increase in frequency. Confronted with this situation, the Japanese air defense must be strengthened immediately and to the utmost extent.

The Americans are continuing to exert themselves in order to complete their Mariana bases. Large-sized enemy machines ranging from 20 to 40 in number now appear every day over the various islands of the Ogasawara group, followed by smaller formations during the night. What is worth noticing in this connection is the fact that the enemy aircraft raiding the Ogasawara group now include both bomber and fighter planes, with the support of surface craft. The enemy attacks are thus three dimensional in character.

The enemy air offensive against Palao, Yap, and Truk is also pertinaciously maintained, with the object of restricting the use of our air bases. The enemy machines that raided these islands during January totalled more than 300 in number. In this area, however, there have been no new developments except for increased frequency in raids.

In contrast to the American air offensive mentioned above, the enemy air forces operating from the coast of New Guinea and the islands lying to the west have the aim to cut our communications with the Southern Regions, while strengthening their own supply lines to the Philippines. The enemy planes concentrated in the above region now number 2,500, which machines are repeating raids on the Japanese bases in Celebes and Halmahera, from where our forces are operating to intercept the enemy supply lines to the Philippines. The enemy machines, on the other hand, are also repeating raids on the oil districts of Borneo, though not simultaneously with the attacks on Celebes and Halmahera.

The main theatre of the Pacific War has already shifted to the Philippines, with the advance of the air bases of the enemy established in Luzon. Now is the time for the home front to make the greatest possible exertions to meet the requirements of the fighting front.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT IN MANCHOUKUO UPPED

Over 100 Per Cent Increase in Grain Noted Over Last Year's Production

Domei

HSINKING, February 17.—The policy of increasing agricultural production which has been followed by the authorities in Manchoukuo, granary of East Asia, is bearing fruit rapidly. The amount of grain which has been brought to the market in Manchoukuo in the current grain year showed an increase of more than 100 per cent, it has been announced by the Manchoukuo Publicity Board.

The result, which is as brilliant as that which was achieved in the last grain year, was made possible by the exertions of the farming population of Manchoukuo which since the spring of last year has been making a great effort in response to the Government to realize the greatest increase known in the history of the country in the amount of grain produced in the country and brought to the market in a year.

Manchoukuo has achieved another agricultural triumph. It has during the current grain year realized a 10 per cent increase in the number of peasants in the country and a 100 per cent increase in that of settlers. This is the second successive time that the goal has been exceeded in Manchoukuo in a movement to increase substantially the amount of grain brought to the market in a year.

The increased output of grain in Manchoukuo insures that there will be adequate supplies of grain available in the country in the next grain year, while it will make a great contribution toward the firm establishment of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs in Japan and Manchoukuo as a unit.

The announcement of the Manchoukuo Publicity Board, which was made today follows:

"The total amount of agricultural products which has been brought to the market in the country in the current grain year has reached the goal by the first part of February, thanks to the exertions of the officials and people. The large-scale marketing of grain continues."

Chang Lauds Nation

In this connection, Prime Minister Chang Ching-hui of Manchoukuo issued today a statement in which he congratulated the nation upon the result of the movement to increase the production of grain and to bring it to the market in the current grain year.

The statement follows:

"The amount of agricultural products which has been produced and brought to the market in the current grain year exceeded the goal on February 10, and the marketing operations still continue vigorously. For this I congratulate the nation.

"In the current grain year, as in the previous year, the weather conditions have been exceedingly favorable except in some portions of the land and the result is the realization of the largest crop since the founding of the country. This highly satisfactory result was made possible by great exertions made by the authorities and the people in a body.

"Special mention must be made of the efforts of the local administrative organs and related institutions which are in the front line of the movement to bring as much grain as possible to the market, and of those of the entire farming population of the country which is inspired by the spirit of exerting every effort to meet the supreme needs of the state. It goes without saying that the securing of supplies of foodstuffs is the indispensable condition of the successful conduct of the war.

"At the present stage of the war situation, agricultural products, beside being important as food, have as great a part to play in the conduct of the war as arms.

"To insure an increase in agricultural production as well as to extend the output of such important war materials as iron, coal and light metals, is the greatest mission we have to perform under the conditions of the sacred war.

"Needless to say, the Government is firmly resolved to proceed with the performance of this mission, putting every energy into the work of doing so, since by doing so it will make sure of bringing the War of Greater East Asia to a victorious end."

Meanwhile, Greater East Asiatic Affairs Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu on February 16 sent telegrams to Rokuzo Takebe, Director of the General Affairs Board of Manchoukuo, and Huang Fu-chun, Agriculture Development Minister, congratulating them upon the attainment of the goal in the movement to market grain in the current grain year and expressing respect for the exertions of the officials and people of Manchoukuo which have made possible the success of the movement.

News and Views

Death Verdict for Poland

By Kiyoshi Kojima

Little that was unexpected appears in the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the "Big Three" Crimea Conference. The announced plans for "new and even more powerful blows" to be launched by the military forces of the three Powers against Germany for shortening of the war in Europe, the plans for occupation of Germany, and the plans for "liberated Europe"—these were expected long before the "Big Three" sat across the table at Yalta. Expected, too, was the decision on Poland, but it is one deserving of special mention, manifesting once again the hollowness of Anglo-American promises.

With regard to Poland, the communique said: "A new situation has been created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army. This calls for the establishment of a Polish Provisional Government which can be more broadly based than was possible before the recent liberation of western Poland. The provisional government which is now functioning in Poland should therefore be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad. This new government should then be called the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity." What else can this be but a death warrant for the Polish Government in exile in London! The communique makes no mention whatsoever of the emigre government in the British capital. Roosevelt and Churchill obviously believed that the Poles in London would be satisfied with the communique's reference to "Poles abroad" as a factor to be considered in the formation of the proposed Polish Provisional Government of National Unity.

The fact that the "Big Three" Conference was held at the Soviet resort town of Yalta was in itself action admitting of Roosevelt and Churchill's yielding to Marshal Stalin. Roosevelt had to cross the Atlantic and Europe. Churchill had to fly across Europe. Marshal Stalin had only to fly a few hundred miles to get to the Crimea. But the decision on Poland was an outright submission of these two leaders to the Soviet Premier. It will be recalled that the Kremlin a few weeks ago unilaterally recognized the Lublin Committee (now at Warsaw) as the Provisional Government of Poland and informed the British and American Governments to that effect. It will be recalled, too, that Washington and London were quick to reaffirm their diplomatic relations only with the Polish Government in exile in London. But now comes their volte face attitude. It is no wonder then that the Yalta communique struck the Polish leaders in London with extreme dismay. Reports from London are that the Polish exile Government will reject the so-called invitation to join the Provisional Government in Poland. But its action will be impotent and the regime will have to take the insult.

The Yalta communique further said that "the eastern frontier of Poland should follow the Curzon Line with digressions from it in some regions of five to eight kilometers in favor of Poland." In effect, this means that at least a third of the eastern prewar Poland will become Soviet teritory. Here again it is Roosevelt and Churchill's complete submission to Marshal Stalin. It is no wonder an American Congressman's reaction to the communique was its denunciation as a "sell-out of Poland."

It is to laugh when in the very paragraph preceding the "death verdict" for Poland, the Yalta communique reaffirmed faith in the Atlantic Charter—the very document Churchill and Roosevelt have proved to be a dead letter.

POSTHUMOUS PROMOTION

Yasumitsu Fukui, late Japanese Consul at Macao, who died on February 3 from wounds he suffered at the hands of terrorists in Makao on the previous day, has been promoted Consul General under date of February 3, it was learned on Saturday.

A graduate of the East Asia Unilateral College at Shanghai, Mr. Fukui was appointed Foreign Office secretary in April 1926, and ordered to a post in China. In 1927, he was commissioned a sublieutenant of the Army.

He was ordered to Hongkong in 1931 and then to Canton in the following year. He was named a member of the Third Section of the East Asia Bureau of the Foreign Office in 1935 and was dispatched to Shanghai the following year. In July 1939, he was appointed Vice-Consul in Canton. In 1941, he was sent to Amoy.

TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS OF CHINA ARE DESCRIBED

New Year Celebration Starts When Kitchen God Is Sent Up to Heaven

The most important festival in China is the New Year festival. As in other countries, the extent of the celebrations depends upon the limits of individual family purses. This season commences on the eve of the 23rd days of the twelfth moon, when the kitchen God is sent up to heaven.

In old cities such as Peking and those provincial capitals such as Wuchang and Hangchow where the population is not as crowded as that of the Treaty Ports, one may find what is, literally, called a "Buddha House," in the kitchens to each home, being usually attached to the brick chimney above the stove. It is made of carved wood, varying in size and beauty according to the wealth of the owner. Inside is hung a paper picture of the God, Tsao Tchun, or Tsao Wang Yeh, as this god is known in the North. Chinese mythology claims that on the 23rd day of the twelfth month, Tsao Wang Yeh ascends to heaven to make his annual report to the heavenly Emperor regarding the conduct of the members of the family during the year just past.

On the table in front of the "Buddha house," in addition to the usual red candles and incense, there are placed offerings of sweetmeats and preserved fruits. Suspended from the front of the table are paper ingots of silver, and strips of yellow paper cut to represent cash. When this is over, Tsao Wang Yeh and all the offerings are removed to the courtyard and burned. His "house" remains vacant during the next week and a new picture is installed on the thirtieth day of the month to be worshipped through the ensuing year. Thus it may be inferred that to make a round trip to heaven takes only seven to eight days because Tsao Wang Yeh ascends to heaven on the 23rd and returns to his house on the eve of the New Year.

Pay, Collect Accounts

After the ascension of Tsao Wang Yeh to heaven, invitations are usually sent to friends; at the same time people begin to busy themselves with the task of paying and collecting accounts up to the 30th day of the month which is also the last day that accounts can remain outstanding without the debtor "losing face." Sufficient food must be prepared previous to New Year's day for the following five days, for no provisions are sold during this period, and no work at all should be done.

The Mid-Autumn Festival (as the "Moon" Festival is called) is one of the three most important festivals in China, the other two being the Dragon Boat Festival and the Chinese New Year. It is also, incidentally, one of the three "settlement" days of the year, which means that on that day among Chinese businessmen and traders, all outstanding debts must be settled.

It is customary during this season for friends to exchange presents, which include the tasty mooncakes specially baked in a round form as a symbol of the moon. Most Chinese homes arrange parties to which friends are invited.

In the larger cities, worshipping of the moon is also indulged in, this being for the most part performed by women. One may see standing in front of some houses in this city tables on which the light of the moon is reflected. Upon these tables are placed dishes of moon cakes, fruits, burning candles, a tower of incense and an incense burner containing sandalwood.

Some families keep on the rituals until the moon is out of sight in the early hours of the morning.

The other important feast day in the Chinese Calendar is the Dragon Boat Festival. This festival has been observed for over 2,700 years. The origin of this festival dates back to the mythological era of the States of "Spring" and "Autumn," during the time of a learned man, by the name of Chu Yuen, a native of Hupeh who was not accorded an official position by the Chinese government in spite of his many achievements. This was such a disappointment to him that on the 5th day of the month he jumped into the river "Mee Lou Kiang" and was drowned on the borders of Hunan and Hupeh provinces. This tragedy was keenly felt by his many friends, who feared that fishes might feed on his body, so rice puddings wrapped in three-cornered packages were prepared to be thrown into the river to appease the hunger of the fishes, thus diverting their attention from the body of Chu Yuen. Thence forward, this variety of pudding has been used as a symbol of the fifth moon festival. The Dragon Boat races which, prior to the hostilities, usually took place at this time also originated in this manner.

(To Be Continued)

Press Comments

Saturday, February 17

ENEMY RAID ON JAPAN PROPER

ASAHI—On February 16, enemy plane formations in quick succession raided the Keihin (Tokyo-Yokohama) area and environment on a rather big scale. The raid was conspicuously different from others to date in various aspects. For one thing, it was an extremely obstinate raid. It was also a raid with a large number of small-size deck planes.

The most urgent requirement of the moment is for all of us, each in his place, to do his job with still greater zeal, and with the greatest efficiency possible. We must not relax even in face of the severest bombing. The most urgent of all tasks is to strengthen still more the air defense installations of the factories. Only when complete measures are taken for protecting the factory workers will the "special attack" production materialize. This is the time when every effort should be concentrated on concrete measures.

The enemy's raids were hurled back each time by the fierce counter-fighting of our Air Control Units. However, the plan and fighting will of the enemy must not be slighted. This fighting is an enterprise fully planned and undertaken with thoroughness. We too must therefore be thorough and fight through without relaxing our tension. We have full trust in our military strategy and shall fight this war through even beyond death.

AMERICA'S IMPATIENCE OVER CHINA

MAINICHI—The negotiations between Chungking and Yenan are meeting with difficulties. According to a Chungking announcement, considerable concessions have been offered by Chiang Kai-shek to Chou En-lai on four points. Restriction of Ho Ying-chin's authority, the establishment of a coalition regime with Yenan, and the pledge to enforce a constitution—Chiang Kai-shek has been making one important concession to Yenan after another. And now he has made another great concession, or rather, was forced to make it. But it is said that Chou En-lai has turned it down.

Chou En-lai, who returned to Yenan after rejecting this concession, has taken back another plan proposed by Chungking, it is added in the Chungking announcement. This would indicate that the negotiations have not been broken off, but will the new plan work? The contents of this new plan are yet unknown. There is, however, no doubt that it contains further concessions than those of the Chungking plan turned down already. But inasmuch as Chiang Kai-shek is not willing to abandon what he has hitherto been firmly maintaining, there will be a limit to his concessions. On the other hand, Yenan's demands are incompatible with what Chiang has been firmly maintaining.

In the same day that Britain has betrayed Europe, Chiang Kai-shek has betrayed Asia. However, he has no intention of giving up the autonomy of China. Only, lacking sufficient foresight, he has taken the wrong path. Yenan upholds the principle of internationalism and therefore cannot coexist with Chungking. Herein lies the reason for the conflict and here, too, is room for American interference. Of course, what America desires for China is not strong nationalism but vague internationalism. Yenan's challenge to dictatorial Chungking is giving America a fine opportunity to interfere. America has been tormenting Chiang Kai-shek since last year with the idea of the "democratization" of China. All that America wants is to destroy China's nationalism and turn the country into a market for American goods.

However, there is one point on which the United States is feeling uneasy, and that is the attitude of the Soviet Union who has been utterly silent on the matter of Yenen. It is no wonder that America should be impatient.

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America's Interventionist Policy

President Franklin Roosevelt's message to Congress which was made almost simultaneously with the announcement of the Crimean Conference communique in which he urged in the interest of future "peace" that Congress take immediate action to approve the International Monetary Agreement which was drafted at the Bretton Woods Conference last July is a naked revelation of the presumptuous determination of the United States to carry out remorselessly and relentlessly her policy of unscrupulous economic and political intervention in the affairs of the world. President Roosevelt blandly asserted in this message to Congress that America's postwar international policy must be based on two cornerstones. One of these cornerstones, he claimed, must be the Dumbarton Oaks plan for the establishment of a permanent international peace machinery; the other, he asserted, must be the Bretton Woods plan.

Even the people in the United States must now admit that, as a result of the Crimean Conference, President Roosevelt has definitely committed the American people to the policy of active intervention in the affairs of Europe. Nor is that all. His reference to the Dumbarton Oaks proposal as "the cornerstone for international political cooperation" clearly points to the fact that political interventionism on a world-wide scale will henceforth form the cardinal policy of America's foreign policy in the postwar period.

That such will be the inevitable development of America's foreign policy in the future if that country persists in following her present diplomatic course is inescapable. That is because the proposed international security organization which has been devised by the Anglo-American Powers obviously legalizes intervention by the big Powers in the domestic affairs of other nations. The operation of this organization can only result in the submission of the smaller Powers to the Big Five since the right of armed intervention in the affairs of the world rests solely with the security council of the proposed league of nations and since the general assembly which would be composed of the smaller countries has been given no real power whatever. The brazen determination of the United States to bring about the establishment of this postwar peace machinery based on naked force is concrete proof that the Anglo-American Powers seek to realize through the application of the policy of intervention their dream for world mastery.

In the economic sphere, the intervention of the United States would be carried out through the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It is apparent from the nature of the power vested in the hands of the United States under these institutions. The distribution of voting power in the International Monetary Fund, for instance, is to be determined by the amount of gold each nation supplies to the common pool. Since the United States is the largest gold-holding and exporting nation in the world and since she would contribute [illegible] out of the total contributions to the Fund of $8,800,000,000, the United States would naturally have a controlling voice in the operation of this international monetary machinery. Moreover, since this plan is artfully designed to promote American exports rather than the exports of all nations, the operation of this international monetary arrangement will result in a continuous drain of the gold supply and foreign exchange balances of the various nations of the world, a situation which must inevitably lead to the indebtedness of these countries to the United States. Should these nations then begin to borrow funds from the United States, an excuse will be created for the United States to carry out her interference in the economy of these nations.

This is not a theoretical possibility but a real danger arising out of the very nature of this International Monetary Agreement. The very fact that the United States is urging the adoption of this unsound and selfish monetary plan when its operation can only bring about dire maladjustments and crises in international economy is irrefutable proof that the United States' real aim is to create a situation which will allow greater and greater American interference in the economic affairs of the world. No other interpretation can be given to the American motive for sponsoring this unsound monetary scheme, for if it is her real desire to establish a stable international economic order she could readily do this by stabilizing her own currency and by reducing her tariff walls, measures which would stabilize the currencies of the world more quickly and permanently than the artificial, makeshift measures outlined in the draft of the International Monetary Fund. The unwillingness of the United States to adopt measures which would benefit all humankind rather than solely the American people is, indeed, damaging evidence that she has never entertained any real wish for the happiness and welfare of the peoples of the world. In fact, President Roosevelt let the cat out of the bag when he stated in his message to Congress that the purpose of the Bretton Woods agreement is to ensure "real peace-time employment (in the United States) for those who will be returning from the war and for those at home whose wartime work has ended" as well as "orders and profits to our industries" and "prosperous markets in the world to ensure our own prosperity."

The brazen intention of the United States to carry out her political intervention in international affairs side by side with her policy of economic intervention is an ill-augury for the world. There can be no compromise with this enemy whose ambition it is to keep the world in abject submission with bombs and sixteen-inch guns. This fight the Axis Powers are carrying on today against the Anglo-American Powers must, therefore, be a fight to the finish, for there can obviously be no true peace nor freedom under the Anglo-American world system.

A Year Ago Today

February 18, 1944

Units of the Japanese Army Air Force in China surprise-raided Kienow in Fukien Province and blasted the runways and other military establishments, which have been rendered unusable.

* * *

A trade agreement was concluded between the United States and the Dominican Republic with the latter agreeing to export to the United States all her surplus production of several kinds of essential foodstuffs, both governments announced.

* * *

The Japanese Air Units attacked anti-Axis shipping in the waters off the western coast of Bougainville Island, causing damage and casualties, the headquarters of the anti-Axis forces in the Southwestern Pacific announced in a communique.

* * *

Rome again became the target of wanton bombings by an anti-Axis bomber formation which attacked the city, dropping numerous bombs on the residential quarters.

* * *

Japanese Garrison Forces stationed on Taroa Island in the Moleopatoll of the Marshal Group repulsed a total of 11 enemy planes including Vought-Sikorsky TBF's and Consolidated B-24 bombers that attacked the island several times as well as the foe's surface craft that bombarded it. Our damage was slight.

* * *

The Military Council of the National Government of China has decided on a new regulation providing for the dispatch of an increased number of military officers to Japan for study.

BURMESE NAMES

Ba Stands for Father; Thein Means Hawk

The Burmese do not have surnames. They have only first names given to them by horoscopists after the various significances of the day of the week in which they were born. Since there are only seven days to the week, namesakes are abounding. To prevent confusion, therefore, different nicknames are concocted, or various titles given such as Attorney So-and-So or Dry Goods Dealer So-and-So. Often the name of the father is prefixed as in the Russian fashion.

Though some are meaningless, the majority of the names stand for one thing or other. Prime Minister Dr. Ba Maw's name, for example, is of interest to analyze. Ba stands for father or "uncle." Maw means to lift one's eyes to heaven. As for Ambassador Thein Maung's name, Thein means hawk and Maung, little, or any such term commonly given to little boys, as "Sonny," Taro, etc.; the two together make Little Hawk, Sonny Hawk and so forth.

The Aung of the National Defence Minister Thakin Aung San, means to accomplish or succeed; San means fountain or spring. Thakin signifies that he belongs to the Thakin Political Party, otherwise known as the Dobama Party. The Mya of Vice-Minister Thakin Mya, means emerald. The second and third names of Thakin Than Tun, Minister of Agriculture, stands respectively for strength and brilliancy.

Thakin, however, is not necessarily employed in every case with these men of the government. The equivalent of "Mr." in Burmese is "U." The Prime Minister's name can be written either as Dr. Ba Maw or U Ba Maw. Thakin is very often substituted by "U," as in U Mya and U Than Tun.

More complicated is the name of Propaganda Minister Bandoola U Sein. Sein means diamond. Bandoola is taken after the name of Burma's greatest general who died fighting against the British in Burma's first revolt for independence. The "U" in this case is placed after Bandoola, as it is also with the ex-Prime Minister Japan U Saw, "Japan" being adopted in memory of his visit to Japan.

Names Frequently Change

The Burmese quite often use the honorific "U", even in cases of self-introduction. It is used also in their name-cards. Usually, however, this applies to persons no longer young. It is customary for young men to address one another by "Ko," or by "Maung," when the persons concerned are still in their teens. One's name, therefore, changes as one grows older. But modesty, in many cases, makes even an old man use the title "Maung," meaning as much as "Your humble servant."

Government officers and school teachers are addressed with the honorific "U," heedless of age, but people of the rank and file are called by the inevitable Maung, regardless of age. In such cases, "U" means as much as "uncle," Ko, elder brother, and Maung, junior.

Maung thus abounds in Burmese names. It is used other than as the title Mr., such as in Ambassador Thein Maung's case, and in the case of Thakin Lay Maung, Minister of Communication and Irrigation. Among the present Burmese Cabinet members, the Minister of Justice has the same name as Ambassador U Thein Maung.

Even such name as U Maung Maung exists. Maung, in this instance, is used more or less as a pet name or term of endearment. To evade complications, it is not seldom that government officers are named U Maung Maung No. 1, U Maung Maung No. 2, and so on, down the line, according to the order in which they have achieved their posts.

Still more befuddling are the names of Burmese women. Only a handful of feminine names are known to the people, and pet names abound even more so than in the case of men. The honorific Ma, may be used to represent elder sister, mother, girl or woman.

Two Ma's are sometimes used as in Daw Khin Ma Ma, wife of Dr. Ba Maw, or as in Daw Ma Ma Khin, female ex-member of the Burmese Parliament. The first Ma is used as an honorific, the second, to mean as much as elder sister. Khin stands for love or friendship. Daw is used in addressing an elder, and authoritative woman, or the wife of an official. Daw in such cases would take on the meaning of "auntie." Other than Ma Khin, there is Me Khin. Khin usually precedes the Ma or Me in the names of actresses and screen stars.

Sein and Mya are used together to form Ma Mya Sein or Sister Diamond Emerald Ma Gwe Sein means Sister Silver Emerald, a very metallic sounding name.

Kwe, meaning dog, and Uwe, pig, are used in children's names. They sound like nicknames, but actually they aren't. A name with either of these words would mean that the child is as healthy and fat as a puppy or a little pig.

Burmese words written in alphabets would be unintelligible if pronounced in the English way. It is closer to the French way, where so many liaisons are used. The Burmese language, strictly speaking, is not made to be written in alphabets. Names of persons and places are done so for convenience's sake, but the results have proven unpleasant. —Times Week, Shanghai

THE UNITED NATIONS MONETARY AGREEMENT

President Roosevelt has been inaugurated for his fourth term and the United States Congress has set out on its business of the seventy-ninth session. The Administration, given its new tenure of life, and the Legislature, reshuffled by the election of last November, are confronted with various measures designed to "win the peace" as well as those directly connected with the execution of war. Among the former, the "United Nations Monetary Agreement," the outcome of the Bretton Woods Conference held last July, will be one which will figure most prominently.

The Sekai Keizai Chosakai—Institute of World Economy—in Tokyo has given study to this Agreement from various angles in view of the far-reaching effect which it will carry, when actually put in operation, in the post-war world economic situation. The following article, which is the fruit of their study, was prepared specially for The Nippon Times.—Editor.

I

At the Bretton Woods Conference, the anti-Axis countries drafted the so-called "United Nations Monetary Agreement" and set up the "International Stabilization Fund" with the avowed object of promoting monetary stabilization among them, the details of the final draft agreed upon being made public in the White Paper on July 29 last year. In examining this anti-Axis monetary plan, we need to direct attention to two points especially, that is, what contribution it will make toward enhancing the anti-Axis fighting power and what America attempts to achieve through its operation.

Before proceeding to discuss the merits or demerits of the plan, let us first survey the circumstances leading up to its elaboration and then give the outline of its constitution.

II

Like all other postwar plans of the enemy camp, this particular plan, too, was largely advertised by the United States and Britain with undue emphasis put on its alleged virtues, thus aiming to secure firmer cohesion of smaller anti-Axis countries to their cause. The discussion of the postwar monetary plan was started among the American and British financial experts as early as about the middle of 1942, their "year of turn for the offensive," and in October of the same year they were brought together in London for conference.

Although propaganda was the main objective of the conference, the discussion of the plan inevitably gave rise to divergences of view between the United States and Britain since the issue involved concerns the fundamentals of the international economic policy. The outcome of the conference was the adoption of the British plan which was popularly known as the "Keynes plan." How the American delegate reacted to the adoption of the plan could not be ascertained, but the fact that the American authorities were far from satisfied with the managed currency formula of the British proposal was amply testified by the sudden publication of a plan of their own known as the "Morgenthau plan" or the "White plan" on March 4, 1943, that is, a week before the publication of the Keynes plan. This White plan was diametrically opposite, in its conception, to the British plan; it was akin to the gold standard formula. That is to say, the United States formulated her plan, as Britain did hers, in such a manner as she deemed best suited to advance her own interests. By this unexpected American move, the concord nominally established at the London Conference was broken. Canada then came forward with another plan which was a compromise between the British and American plans. This Canada plan was not taken up formally, however.

Firmly resolved to carry her own plan through, the American Government forwarded it to the governments of thirty-seven anti-Axis countries, simultaneously with its publication, asking for the expression of expert opinion on it. British opinion was positively antagonistic to the White plan, but, for political reasons, the British authorities were unable to offer out-and-out opposition to it. On the other hand, the United States could not well dispense with Britain's cooperation for the success of her plan. In such circumstances, she apparently decided to make some concession, and a compromise resulted between the two countries. This led to another conference of anti-Axis experts in March last year, at which the "original plan" of the Stabilization Fund was drawn up, and its full text was published in another White paper under date of April 21 of the same year.

This "original draft" served as the basis of discussion at the conference of the delegates of forty-four anti-Axis countries, which was held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, from July 9 to 24 last year, as the result of which the "final draft" was drawn up.

The work of the Bretton Woods Conference was divided into three committees. The first committee studied the "Monetary plan," the second committee the "World Bank plan" and the third committee the other connected problems.

We shall here confine our attention to the Monetary plan, leaving the World Bank plan to be dealt with on a later occasion.

III

The Monetary plan had thus many vicissitudes before it was put into definite shape. Since it was first conceived up to the adoption of its final draft, five different plans claimed their share of attention, namely, the Keynes plan, the White plan, the Canada plan, the "original draft," and the "final draft." At every stage, we see the growth of the political influence of the United States within the anti-Axis camp reflected. That the contents of the plan underwent so frequent changes also testifies to the fragility of the ties which bind the anti-Axis countries together.

The Keynes plan was, as already noted, framed with the advance of British interests chiefly in view, but to do it justice, we must say that it was more practical than the White plan. As for the White plan, framed, as it was, with gold as the pivot, it was certainly calculated to promote American interests, and it had many defects which showed it to be hard of application. This notwithstanding, the United States attempted forcibly to carry it through, and this clearly reveals her selfish design to promote her interests at the sacrifice of others.

However strong pressure the United States may be able to exert on the other anti-Axis countries, she has much to look for Britain's cooperation in bringing about an international agreement affecting all anti-Axis countries. The success of the plan thus depended on the extent of concession the United States was prepared to make. And this concession was discernible in the moderating character of the "original draft."

Here let us examine the main points of difference noticeable between the "original draft" and the White plan:—

1. The total amount of the quotas to be allotted to member countries has been increased by $3,000,000,000 to $8,000,000,000, while obligatory gold subscription has been doubled to 25 per cent.

2. Transactions with the Fund, provided for on an extensive scale in the White plan, have been confined to the sale of the currencies of member countries. Particularly noteworthy is the deletion made of the clause contained in the White plan providing for the purchase of frozen assets.

3. The limits within which member countries are allowed to change the par values of their currencies has been extended to 20 per cent.

4. The transition period has been provided during which time member countries may be exempted from the obligations relative to the abolition of exchange restrictions.

5. In the matter of administration, the membership of the board of executives has been reduced to nine, including the representatives of five countries with the largest quotas, from twelve in the Keynes plan and eleven in the White plan.

6. Withdrawals have been limited to the single instance of optional withdrawal, all penal clauses having been deleted. The clauses appearing both in the Keynes and in the White plans for the punishment of defaulting member countries and for compulsory withdrawal have been ruled out.

The revisions effected in the "original draft" were intended for relieving the weaker member countries of their sense of being oppressed, but no attempt was made to alter the clauses designed to put the principal member countries in control. It is particularly interesting to note that the United States made a big concession to Britain in dropping the provision concerning frozen assets. Although many of the British points of view embodied in the Keynes plan were not accepted, there are indications that some tacit understanding has been reached between the two countries outside the operation of the plan.

IV

For the discussion of the "original draft" drawn up in this way, the Bretton Woods Conference was called. It was a big conference with no fewer than forty-four countries represented. The number of the delegates present was reported to have totalled nearly 300.

The Conference was by no means uneventful, heated controversies taking place even in the debate of matters of lesser importance. That it nevertheless succeeded in reaching an agreement shows the Conference to be nothing more than a "rubber stamp" affair.

How to apportion the quotas was an issue which, not unnaturally, proved most controversial. In view of the fact that the quotas or the amounts of subscription to the Fund allotted to member countries are closely related not only to the extent to which they can make use of the Fund's resources but to their voting power, the manner of their allotment formed a subject of heated discussion to the last. As a result of the request of the Soviet Union and some other countries, the total amount of subscription which was fixed at $8,000,000,000 in the "original draft" was eventually increased to $8,800,000,000. This did not affect the order of precedence among the countries, however. That is, as in the "original draft," the United States was placed first on the list, with Britain second, the Soviet Union, Chungking and France following in the order given. We need hardly say that it was purely from political considerations that Chungking was given the fourth place.

Some items other than quotas also called forth very sharp controversies. The Indian delegation was most vehement in their criticism of the "original draft," particularly on two points, namely, the purpose of the Fund for the omission of the clause relative to frozen assets. They contended that the Fund would prove of little use to economically backward countries if it was to aim simply at the settlement of the balance of trade. Referring to the deletion of the frozen assets clause, they asserted that it rendered the draft under discussion very defective, pointing out that India's assets frozen in Britain amounted to well-nigh £1,000,000,000.

Next to India, the delegations of Latin American countries were most critical of the draft. The Cuban delegate demanded that the Latin American group be recognized and that this group be represented on the board of executives of the Fund, while the Mexican delegate insisted that besides gold, silver should be included in the quotas.

In the committee which dealt with matters relating to the occupied countries, the liquidation of the Bank for International Settlement, the denial of the membership of the Fund to the Axis countries and the protection of the seized property transferred by the Axis countries to neutral countries were urged, among other things.

Of these demands and proposals brought forward at the Conference, the Indian demand was summarily rejected because of American support of the British cause, that of the Cuban delegate for the recognition of the Latin American group was accepted, the Mexican delegate's proposal about silver was deferred for future consideration, the demands for the liquidation of the Bank for International Settlement and for the protection of the seized property were put on record in the Conference's recommendations and the proposal for the denial of membership to the Axis countries was not taken up.

Although, as above stated, the Conference was not uneventful, the issues raised were not of such importance as to incommode the Conference to any serious extent. One fact which emerged prominently was that the United States gained considerably in influence. The favorable turn which the course of war had taken for the United States since the publication of the "original draft" up to the time the Conference was called in July last year created an atmosphere in which she could exert her political influence more forcibly. She showed little hesitation in taking full advantage of this situation to bring what pressure she could to bear upon the Conference.

V

The final draft drawn up in this way reflected the change of general situation as described above and was, in part, shorn of the conciliatory tone which marked the "original draft," taking on the coercive character of the White plan again. In some respects, it is even more coercive in character than the White plan as can be gathered from the points enumerated below:

1. Stronger measures have been provided for the maintenance of the par values of the currencies of the member countries, stricter restrictions have been set on the extent to which par value can be changed, the penal clause was inserted and the way has been opened for interference by the Fund even in the gold reserve of member countries.

2. Besides gold, the U.S. currency with the weight and fineness as on June 1, 1944, has been made the standard for fixing the par values of currencies.

3. With the object of preventing the abuse of the Fund's resources, it has been so arranged that a commission should be charged for the purchase of currencies and that interest should be charged at progressive rates on the debtor balance exceeding its quota.

4. For the protection of the Fund's assets, provision has been made for the member country concerned to make good the deficit or for the Fund to pay back in the member's currency the amount equal to decrease or to increase in gold in case changes have occurred in the value of the assets through the devaluation or revaluation of the member's currency. This represents the revival of the clause deleted from the White plan.

5. For the purpose of strengthening the inter-convertibility of the currencies of member countries, a new obligation has been created for the repurchase of the foreign held balance.

6. A restrictive clause regarding exchange contracts has been newly added to the obligations of member countries.

7. It has been made obligatory on member countries to present the reports the Fund requires. This shows the revival of a clause deleted from the White plan.

8. A new clause with specific items has been added to the penal clauses. It refers chiefly to suspension of member countries from the use of the Fund's resources.

9. The stipulation of compulsory withdrawal has been added to that governing the right of members to withdraw.

10. In the article dealing with administration, the manner of distributing the votes has been definitely laid down. The method adopted is analogous to that provided for in the Canada plan.

11. The clause stipulating for the rule of decision by majority has been struck out.

This plan comes into force when the forty-four countries which participated in the Conference have formally applied for membership with the approval of their respective legislative organs, and the time limit for such applications is fixed at December 31, 1945. It may, however, come into operation earlier, though in no event before May 1, 1945, on the formal entry of the countries possessing among themselves 65 per cent of the quotas. What is worthy of special note is that the plan is not meant to come into force after the war but that it is to be put into operation even before the end of war, regardless of its outcome. Inasmuch as the "Big Five" and one or two other countries hold among themselves 65 per cent of the quotas, there is every prospect of the plan coming into operation in May this year by their entry.

(To Be Continued)

BALBOA

Turbulent Career Opens Modern Chapter of Pacific History

By KLAUS MEHNERT
(From the XXth Century, Shanghai)

IV

For a few weeks the fate of America hung in the balance of chance. Had Arbolancha left for Spain immediately after Balboa's return, the King would have found out in time that all the aims for whose sake Pedrarias was to sail to the Tierra Firme with a costly fleet had already been attained by Balboa at no expense to the state treasury. It is quite conceivable that Ferdinand would in that case have canceled the whole Pedrarias expedition and left the successful Balboa at his post. But Arbolancha did not leave Antigua until the second week of March, and so it came about that he was still far away from Spain when Pedrarias's armada sailed on April 11, 1514, to bring a new era to America.

When Arbolancha arrived at Court soon after with his important news and rich treasures, Balboa appeared to the King in a more favorable light than before. Ferdinand was faced by a dilemma. On the one hand, he had to ask himself whether it was right to judge so proven a man as Balboa by his former sins. Would it not be better to leave him, the specialist of the Tierra Firme, at his post for the greater glory of Spain and her King and as a spur to future discoverers? But on the other hand, Pedrarias had already left and could not be recalled. The unfortunate compromise on which the King decided was to appoint Balboa "Adelantado [Governor] de la Mar del Sur" under Pedrarias without, however, any clear definition of his rights. He signed the necessary documents on September 23, 1514, but they did not arrive in Antigua until March 20 of the following year. Meanwhile, a lot of water had flowed down the Darien River there, and we must go back in our narrative to the summer of 1513.

The fact that Pedrarias de Avila had held a high position at the Court of Castile and possessed the favor of Bishop Fonseca, who had the deciding word in American affairs, was due to the noble birth of his mother and his wife, his own activity, and the wealth of his Jewish grandfather. The date of his birth is not known; at the time of his appointment as Governor of Castilla del Oro he seems to have been in his sixties. The King must have placed full confidence in him and equipped him with far-reaching powers. Among other things, Ferdinand stipulated in orders dated July 24 and 28, 1513, that Balboa with all his companions was to be brought to trial.

Few Fit Colonists

Among the 1,500 men with whom Pedrarias put out to sea in April 1514 were many names which were to play an important role during the next few years in the history of the Pacific coast. But later generations which were aware of ensuing events could only shake their heads in amazement of noble blood who, in total ignorance of the tasks awaiting them, set out here for the jungles of America. Of those 1,500 there was hardly more than a handful of men who were fit to be colonists and settlers. All the others voyaged to the Tierra Firme as if they were going on a chivalrous campaign against the King of France.

At the end of June 1514, Pedrarias's fleet cast anchor in Antigua. Several surprises awaited the noble gentlemen. Pedrarias found out that the main purpose of his expedition, the discovery of the ocean on the other side, had already been achieved six months earlier by Balboa; and his cavaliers, who had dreamed of spending their time with heroic campaigns, esteemed administrative activities, and the picking up of gold nuggets, were conscious of a chill feeling of dismay when they saw their own bitter future mirrored in the ragged, starving figures of the men of Antigua.

In all respects, however, matters went smoothly enough at first. Balboa handed over the administration without protest to his successor. In accordance with the royal command, his term of office, especially his behavior to Nicuesa, was made subject to an investigation. But Bishop Juan de Queredo—the first bishop on American soil—who had arrived with Pedrarias, persuaded the latter that it would be dangerous to send the deposed but still ambitious conquistador to the royal court in Spain. So Balboa remained in Darien.

This was not a happy decision. It did not remain concealed for long that the two men regarded each other as bitter rivals. It is easy to understand their feelings. Balboa had by the force of his energy opened up and subjected the Tierra Firme and from one day to the next found himself degraded from a leader to an inferior. Pedrarias, an old and ailing man, saw himself, in spite of his high title, in the shadow of the far younger Balboa, who radiated health and was intimately familiar with all the problems of Golden Castile. The ensuing months did nothing to reduce their mutual distrust. The enemies the impetuous Balboa had made could count on the willing ear of Pedrarias, and those who felt critical toward the new Governor knew that they would always find an eager listener in Balboa.

Reasons For Discontent

There were enough reasons for discontent. The scarcity of provisions, in conjunction with the murderous climate and tropical diseases, killed off hundreds of the new arrivals. The supplies brought by the armada did not last long: the fields previously cultivated did not produce enough for the tremendously increased number of Spaniards and fell, moreover, victim to swarms of locusts. Within seven or eight months, the number of Spaniards had shrunk to half. As for the collecting of gold and the relations with the natives, things were also in a bad way. Pedrarias's men treated even those Indians allied to the Spaniards with such inhuman cruelty that many tribes were soon in open revolt and sought to outdo their enemies in barbaric acts of revenge.

While Balboa was thus watching his own future as well as his work in the Tierra Firme being delivered up to destruction, ships arrived from Spain on March 20, 1515, bringing provisions and the above-mentioned appointment of Balboa to the post of "Governor of the South Sea." Pedrarias now found himself in a difficult position. His in many respects superior rival had regained royal favor and had been appointed Governor of the Pacific coast, i.e., according to expectations the richest and most important part of Castilla del Oro. In his predicament, Pedrarias did the obvious thing: he tried to keep the King's order a secret from Balboa. He was not successful. The Bishop again took sides with the younger man and saw to it that the latter was handed his appointment.

The tension between Pedrarias and Balboa had now grown to be such a burden for the whole colony that the Bishop proposed an ingenious remedy: Balboa was to marry one of Pedrarias's daughters, who had stayed behind in Spain, and in this way build up a new relationship with the latter. The two rivals agreed to this proposal and made up. In a solemn ceremony, Dona Maria became Balboa's bride by proxy and he himself the son-in-law of his superior. At last the road seemed free to harmonious constructive work. By the end of 1516 all matters had been so satisfactorily settled that Balboa began with Pedrarias's consent to prepare his second expedition to the Pacific. He was drawn to his South Sea; and, since the expeditions made to the Pacific coast during the last few years by Badajob, Guzman, Morales, Pizarro, and Espinosa had revealed the great difficulties involved in marching along the coast, he intended to carry out his discoveries by ship. He made the curious decision to fell trees for shipbuilding on the Caribbean instead of on the Pacific coast, probably because he regarded the timber on the northern slopes of the Cordilleras as more suitable and because he wanted to make use of his period of waiting for the arrival of necessary reinforcements in the town of Acla, which had meanwhile been founded. His haste was caused not only by his own impetuosity but also by an agreement with Pedrarias.

(To Be Concluded)